INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1916 (NO. 48; NOS. 43013 TO 43390).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory represents a period of great unrest and lists but few introductions by agricultural explorers who were in foreign countries. It covers a period when shipping facilities were more unsettled than they had been at any time from the outbreak of the war up to the time of America's entrance into it. In consequence it is one of the smallest inventories that have been issued for years.

Notwithstanding these handicaps, some important introductions are described in it; and these it may be well to emphasize.

The growing realization among manufacturers of the importance of the discovery of the hydrogenation of vegetable oils is rapidly putting the palm oils, nut oils, and all other oils in quite a new category. As one chemist has expressed it: "Since these discoveries, which have made it possible to transmute, so to speak, vegetable oils into all sorts of substances useful to man, the oil industries are coming to be understood as of greater importance to the human race than the great steel and iron industries."

It is therefore from this new point of view of the importance of vegetable oils that the successful cultivation of the Brazil nut (No. 43114) in Ceylon and the Straits Settlements is worth recording and action upon the problem of its forest planting in Porto Rico urged. The Java almond, *Canarium indicum* (No. 43024), not only one of the stateliest avenue trees in Java, but also a tree yielding an abundance of large-kerneled nuts, the oil from which has been successfully used by the Dutch in emulsions as an infant food, is worthy of study. The soft lumbang of the Philippines, *Aleurites trisperma* (No. 43389), which yields a quicker drying oil than the true lumbang, *A. moluccana*, may prove adapted to culture in Porto Rico or Cuba; and its introduction brings up the whole question of the hybridization of the various species of Aleurites, the members of